

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

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PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /100 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056091

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJ: LANDING FEES FOR MAC CONTRACT CARRIERS

REFS: A. STATE 59884, 9 APR 71

B. BANGKOK 6124, 6 MAY 71

1. THAI INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS HAS BEGUN INVOICING USAF MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND CONTRACT CARRIERS FOR LANDING FEES AT U- TAPAO, THAILAND. SEVERAL OF THESE AIR CARRIERS HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED BILLINGS FOR LANDINGS MADE AT U- TAPAO DURING VARIOUS PERIODS FROM JANUARY 1971 TO THE PRESENT. FEES IMPOSED VARY FROM 200 DOLLARS TO 350 DOLLARS PER LANDING.

2. USAF CONTRACTS WITH THE CIVIL AIR CARRIERS DO NOT PROVIDE FOR LANDING TARIFFS AT U- TAPAO. USAF MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND HAS INFORMED ALL AIR CARRIERS UNDER CONTRACT TO WITHHOLD PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES AT U- TAPAO UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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3. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL, REF A REFERRED TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES BY MAC CHARTER AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND RECOMMENDED AGAINST PAYMENT OF SUCH FEES " AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING

AID TO THESE COUNTRIES." EMBASSY RESPONDED IN REF B BY POINTING OUT THAT SUCH FEES HAD BEEN PAID FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT OBJECTION BY USG, AND THAT RTG RESPONSE WOULD MOST LIKELY BE THAT SUCH FEES ARE REASONABLE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED RATHER THAN TAX. EMBASSY CONCLUDED THAT RAISING MATTER WITH RTG AT THAT TIME WOULD BE UNWISE.

4. THE LANDING FEES DISCUSSED IN REFS A AND B, HOWEVER, WERE ASSESSED AT DON MAUNG. U- TAPAO PRESENTS DIFFERENT SITUATION. THE RUNWAY AND OTHER FACILITIES USED BY USAF AT THIS JOINT- USE BASE WERE CONSTRUCTED AT USG EXPENSE. ALL GROUND HANDLING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AT USG EXPENSE THROUGH USAF CONTRACT WITH THAI AM MAINTENANCE, LTD. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES BY MAC CHARTER AIRCRAFT (WHICH, OF COURSE, WOULD BE PASSED ON DIRECTLY TO USAF) DOES NOT APPEAR JUSTIFIED AS REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED. CHARGING THE USG FOR THE USE OF A FACILITY CONSTRUCTED AT ITS EXPENSE AND FROM WHICH THE RTG DERIVES CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT APPEARS UNWARRANTED.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY REVIEW SITUATION AND IF NO OBJECTION PERCEIVED, APPROACH RTG TO SEEK TERMINATION OF SUCH CHARGES, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF BILLINGS RECEIVED TO DATE. PLEASE REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE RESOLUTION OF BUDGETING QUESTIONS. ROGERS

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